

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a catalyst having a composition represented by the following formula (1) for use in producing methacrylic acid through gas-phase catalytic oxidation of methacrolein with molecular oxygen, comprising:

(i) preparing a solution or slurry comprising at least molybdenum, phosphorus, and vanadium (liquid I);

(ii) preparing a solution or slurry containing ammonium radical (liquid II);

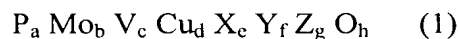
(iii) preparing a mixture of the liquid I and the liquid II by:
introducing one of the liquid I and the liquid II (liquid PR) into a tank (tank A),

subsequently pouring the other of the liquid I and the liquid II (liquid LA) into the tank already containing the liquid PR,

the liquid LA is poured into the tank A so that when the liquid LA contacts the liquid PR the contact occurs at a continuous region on a surface of the liquid PR, and

the continuous region comprises 0.01 to 10% of an entire surface area of the liquid PR in the tank A; and

(iv) drying and calcining the resultant solution or slurry containing a catalyst precursor comprising all the catalyst constituents,



wherein:

P, Mo, V, Cu and O represent phosphorous, molybdenum, vanadium, copper and oxygen, respectively;

X represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of antimony, bismuth, arsenic, germanium, zirconium, tellurium, silver, selenium, silicon, tungsten and boron;

Y represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of iron, zinc, chromium, magnesium, tantalum, cobalt, manganese, barium, gallium, cerium and lanthanum;

Z represents at least one element selected from the group consisting of potassium, rubidium and cesium;

subscripts a, b, c, d, e, f, g and h represent an atomic ratio of each element, respectively; and

when b is 12, a is in the range of from 0.5 to 3, c is in the range of from 0.01 to 3, d is in the range of from 0.01 to 2, e is in the range of from 0 to 3, f is in the range of from 0 to 3, g is in the range of from 0.01 to 3 and h represents the atomic ratio of oxygen necessary for fulfilling the requirement of the valence of each element above.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid LA is poured while stirring the liquid PR introduced into the tank A with a stirring power of 0.01 to 3.5 kW/m³.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid LA is poured from a height of 0.05 to 2 m above the surface of the liquid PR introduced into the tank A.

Claims 4-9 (Cancelled).